

Aviano, Italian Militaries Team Up To Remove WWII Bomb

Members of the U.S. Air Force, the Italian Air Force and Army, and the base Carabinieri teamed up in a cooperative effort to remove a World War II bomb found near the base exchange and commissary at Aviano Air Base, Italy, in April.

The unexploded AM-30 100-pound, general-purpose bomb was unearthed by members of the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron from about a 6-foot depth while tracing a leaking water line behind the base exchange/commissary complex. Base officials immediately issued an evacuation order for the entire potential blast area — including outdoor recreation, the veterinary clinic, and the base exchange and commissary. Traffic patterns were also rerouted as a safety precaution.

Representatives from the 31st CES Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight, 31st Medical Group, wing safety, and 31st Security Forces Squadron accompanied the Italian

Army explosive ordnance experts and the Carabinieri as they moved the bomb from the base to the Dandolo Range near Maniago, where it was safely detonated.

In an effort to ensure no further unexploded munitions exist near Hangars 4 and 6, the Navy Regional Office In Charge of Construction is now surveying the area.

“The cooperation of the Italian and American militaries ensured this potentially dangerous situation was handled smoothly and professionally,” said Lt Col Ann Borgmann, 31st Support Group deputy commander. “The strong daily working relationship we have with Colonel (Alessandro) Tudini and

the Italian military team was evident as we successfully solved a problem impacting the entire Aviano community. Without a doubt, the way this device was handled was a resounding success.” (SSgt Dawn Harris, 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs)



An unexploded AM-30 100-pound, general-purpose bomb dating from World War II rests in the spot that 31st CES members discovered it in April during Aviano 2000 construction. 31st CES explosive ordnance disposal personnel worked with Italian Army explosive ordnance experts to dispose of the bomb. (Photo by SSgt Mitch Fuqua)

Minuteman II Missile Returns to South Dakota

Although the Cold War is over, its legacy lives on in western South Dakota. To honor those who held President John F. Kennedy’s “ace in the hole,” people from Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD, and the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren AFB, WY, are preparing to transfer two decommissioned Minuteman II missile sites to the National Park Service.

About 25 people from F.E. Warren, many of whom served with the 44th Missile Wing there before it was inactivated in 1994, placed a Minuteman II in a silo at one of the sites in June as a tribute to the men and women who fought the Cold War from deep within the Great Plains. The missile had been stored at a depot at Hill AFB, UT.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty calls for all missile silos in South Dakota to be destroyed or turned into static displays by Decem-

ber. So far, more than 400 sites across the Great Plains have been demolished, with only a few remaining.

The two sites near Ellsworth were selected for the display for several reasons. “Over the years, as the Minuteman II and III were developed and deployed, our sites remained the least upgraded in the Minuteman system,” said Tim Pavek, manager of the Minuteman II Deactivation Program and a member of the 28th Civil Engineer Squadron there. “Now they are the most representative of the original Minuteman installations. The two sites are really the only originally configured Minuteman II sites remaining.”

National Park officials also determined that the location of the two missile sites near Mount Rushmore and Badlands National Park made them excellent candidates

to join the National Park system. As a result, Congress established the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in 1999. It includes the two sites and a future visitor center.

“The people of Ellsworth, western South Dakota, and America should be proud and grateful of the role our intercontinental ballistic missiles played during the Cold War,” Pavek said. “These two missile sites, representing hundreds of missile sites dispersed across the rural heartland of America, will be preserved for all as a reminder of this significant period in our history.”

Now that the missile is in place, a viewing enclosure will be constructed over the partially open missile silo. The Air Force will turn the sites over to the National Park Service during an official ceremony this fall. (TSgt D.E. Manuszewski Jr., 28th Bomb Wing Public Affairs)

New Horizons 2001: Readiness training and humanitarian assistance

New Horizons 2001 brought U.S. military teams to Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent recently for training exercises that focused on engineering and medical projects. Active duty, Reserve and Guard members representing all the services built schools and medical clinics, drilled water wells, and provided medical and dental care on clinic visits from January through June. Several Air Force RED HORSE and Prime BEEF teams participated in these U.S. Southern Command-sponsored humanitarian and civic assistance exercises, improving readiness while enhancing the quality of life for people there.

Members of the 820th RED HORSE Squadron from Nellis AFB, NV, deployed to Saint Lucia in January along with U.S. Army and Marine personnel as the lead unit for Joint Task Force Piton. The task force of about 100 personnel constructed a two-story barracks for the St. Lucian Coast Guard and refurbished a community center on the Caribbean island.

The 820th RHS deployed to Guatemala as well, producing all the concrete and building the foundations for the five schools that were built by follow-on Reserve and National Guard teams. The 820th RHS also drilled wells at three locations there.

The 917th Civil Engineer Squadron, Barksdale AFB, LA, was one of the Reserve units deploying to Guatemala, working on the school at El Porvenir. According to Col David Haulman, 917th CES commander during the deployment, the original school at El Porvenir was deteriorating. It was held together with wide, rotting planks and had an outhouse for a restroom. The AFRC civil engineers replaced it with a three-room building with kitchen and restroom facilities. Detachment 1, 307th RHS, also from Barksdale, built the base camp for the Prime BEEF teams.

An 823rd RHS team from

Hurlburt Field, FL, deployed to Paraguay in March to work with U.S. Army and Marine engineers and Argentine and Paraguayan military members at three construction sites near Concepción. A task force of 300 engineer, medical and support personnel were there for approximately 100 days to hone their engineering and support skills, building two medical clinics and four schools and drilling four wells.

USSOUTHCOM has conducted five of the six planned New Horizons exercises this year, with Navy and Marine engineers due to deploy to the Bahamas later this summer. *(Compiled from 917th Wing and USSOUTHCOM reports.)*



SSgt Daniel Wolfrum, 820th RHS, adjusts the floor plan during construction of the St. Lucia Marine Police barracks. (Photo by SrA Jeanette Copeland)



TSgt Peggy Abbott, 908th CES, Maxwell AFB, AL, carries cinder blocks to build restroom facilities for the new school constructed in El Porvenir, Guatemala. (Photo by SrA Shannon Collins)

(Right) Amn Nathan Geldner and A1C Erik Field, 820th RHS, build stairs for the second story of the St. Lucia Marine Police barracks. (Photo by SrA Jeanette Copeland)

(Far right) TSgt Tim "Doc" Brush (left), 823rd RHS, and Lance Michael Taler (right), Marine Wing Support Squadron 271, Cherry Point, NC, support a roofing truss while it is nailed into place during construction of a medical clinic at Tadeo, Paraguay. (30th Communications Squadron photo)



Air Force reservists and Guatemalans work side-by-side on a new three-room school in El Porvenir, Guatemala. (Photo by SrA Shannon Collins)



A1C Romeo Peart, 823rd RHS, pulls the drilling steel from the water well drilling machine at Estigarribia, Paraguay. (Photo by SSgt Richard Freeland)



SSgt Bryan Manchester, 823rd RHS, uses a bobcat with excavator to fill the well tower base with dirt after securing it with cement during construction of a well at Las Palmas, Paraguay, in May. (Photo by SSgt Maritza Fernandez)



Paving Project Provides Training, Saves Money

Several members of the 202nd RED HORSE Squadron, Camp Blanding, FL, gained valuable on-the-job experience during a paving project at Cannon Air Force Base, NM, in May.

27th Civil Engineer Squadron and 202nd RHS members met in January to review the planned paving projects, which would require about 3,000 square yards of asphalt pavement removal and replacement in parking lots, and 2,400 square yards of asphalt overlay of an existing road. The deployment plan was set in motion, with the priority focus now on transportation for the group.

When the two-man advance team from the 202nd RHS arrived at Cannon May 14, they were informed of a priority change. Due to an extremely rough winter, a number of primary roads had experienced accelerated deterioration. The 27th CES had responded with a comprehensive, base-wide pavement maintenance plan that included complete removal and replacement

of asphalt on two primary roads. For the 202nd RHS, the initial scope of work had just quadrupled — and the 15-man team was due to arrive in three days, for a two-week period.

Then, complicating matters further, the C-130 aircraft transporting the team had to turn back due to an engine problem. The group ended up at a motel in Jacksonville, FL, awaiting transportation.

This logistical problem was promptly resolved when the 27th CES provided a fund site for commercial airfare. On short notice, the Scheduled Airline Ticket Office (SATO) found 15 seats on three different airlines arriving in Lubbock, TX, within a two-hour period. Now, with a day lost, the team would have to work even harder to accomplish its mission.

The advance party made arrangements with a local contractor to provide a milling machine and haul asphalt. This allowed the group to split up, with one crew hauling off the asphalt millings, another preparing the surface for paving and the last crew placing asphalt.

During the remaining four days of the first week, the team removed more than 7,000 square yards of pavement and placed more than 800 tons of new asphalt. The workday started before 7 a.m. and usually finished after 5 p.m., with daytime temperatures reaching the 90s.

The milling operation far

surpassed the speed of conventional asphalt removal, leaving a planed surface requiring only minor cleanup and sweeping before placing the new asphalt. Milling also maximized truck use, eliminating voids inherent to conventional removal and providing a product that could be used later as stabilization.

The second week began, again, with airlift problems. Unsure of the date or mode of travel for return on Memorial Day weekend, the team decided to reduce the scope of work rather than chance not completing a primary road. Another 2,700 square feet of pavement was removed and 300 tons of asphalt placed.

In all, considering costs of commercial airfare and rental equipment, the 202nd RHS saved Cannon AFB more than \$60,000 compared to SABER (Simplified Acquisition of Base Engineer Requirements) contract unit prices. As a bonus for the 27th CES, the millings were used to stabilize an unimproved section of perimeter road that becomes impassable during inclement weather.

In return, 202nd RHS personnel gained valuable experience, not only in specialty training, but in responding to unforeseen conditions and managing assets to maximize performance and minimize costs. *(SMSgt Fred Spielmann, 202nd RHS)*



SSgt William Brown, 202nd RHS, clears gutters of excess asphalt during a paving job at Cannon AFB, NM. (Photo by SSgt Paul Cox)

Readiness Challenge VIII Planning Underway

Readiness Challenge VIII, the biennial Air Force worldwide contingency war skills competition, is scheduled for April 18-27, 2002, and will be held at the Silver Flag Exercise Site, Tyndall Air Force Base, FL.

Civil Engineer and Services may be welcoming a new functional to the next competition — Personnel has expressed an interest in having its Personnel Supporting Contingency

Operations (PERSCO) teams participate in this premier international event, which will showcase Air Force "Expeditionary Excellence - the theme for the next competition."

An expanded international presence is expected, with potential team from Germany joining teams from Canada, Japan, Norway, and the United Kingdom on the list of invitees. Senior Air Force civil

engineer officers from Australia, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Singapore and Turkey have been invited to attend and observe the competition. U.S. Air Force Air National Guard and Reserve teams will be selected in November 2001, and active duty major command teams in February 2002. *(Maj Sean Lewis, CF, HQAFCEA)*